



200140

000001

Use This Space To Write Your Comments

Your input on the proposed plan for the Himco Dump Superfund site is important to U.S. EPA. Comments provided by the public are valuable in helping U.S. EPA select a cleanup plan for the site.

You may use the space below to write your comments, then fold, stamp, and mail this page. Comments must be postmarked by October 29, 1992. If you have questions about the comment period, please contact Dave Novak (312) 886-9840 or through U.S. EPA's toll-free number: 1-800-621-8431.

I vote for Alternative #3 - it takes care of the problem for the entirety - it doesn't guarantee eternal safety for the millions of people.
I'm glad the EPA cleans up sites like this - its important - but it takes years to accomplish.

It would really be nice if the U.S. EPA would work primarily towards "PREVENTION" of such environmental catastrophes which always tax the economy and human health in the end like this! If only the EPA would deal the heavy hand of enforcement to polluters (industrial, military, & private) in a heavy enough way (slapping extremely costly fines at the polluters), the polluters would think twice before polluting in the 1st place and we wouldn't have to spend the billions of dollars to clean up the messes, paying for the "preventable" cancers and other other associated health costs created by these environmental collapses, and a natural incentive to find environmentally safer manufacturing techniques and producing cleaner products would result more frequently.

I'll never understand why our GOP thinks regulating and fining in a prevention manner costs too much! This short term thinking is destructive to not only our environment, but our economy! Open your eyes & look at Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Netherlands, Germany, etc. Their philosophy is "Protect your environment & conserve your environment so you can have a sustainable healthy economy for a long long time. Their "allowable pollution levels" are more strict & their fines more heavy. Result - they have fewer associated health costs from environmental catastrophes, healthier environment to sustain economic growth, and fewer "Big T. Me. Blue T. B. as well as cleaner manufacturing techniques! And, their economy are doing great - while this is national & not we don't regulate anywhere near adequately to protect the environment."

☐ I have no comment, but please add me to your mailing list for the Himco Dump Superfund site.

Name Mark Person

Affiliation (if any) Science teacher

Fairfield JSHS

67530 US 33

Address

City

Goslen, IL

State

Indiana

Zip

46526

PAC's present wise, objective decision making on this matter. Our present policies & proposals are hostile to our lives and economy. I'd rather pay a few hundred more in gas dollars a year from my tax payments towards purchase of cleaner mfg. techniques & smoke stack scrubbers, & chemical neutralization, recycling programs than pay out the thousands in spiralling health costs caused in part by polluted air, land, and water, as well as the billions of dollars needed to clean up the toxic messes that should have been prevented in the 1st place. I'd rather have billions of dollars in destruction costs from environmental catastrophes and environmentally sound manufacturing providing more than money to help research cleaner renewable energy resources so we can have a strong economy now and for my children.

Use This Space To Write Your Comments

Your input on the proposed plan for the Himco Dump Superfund site is important to U.S. EPA. Comments provided by the public are valuable in helping U.S. EPA select a cleanup plan for the site.

You may use the space below to write your comments, then fold, stamp, and mail this page. Comments must be postmarked by October 29, 1992. If you have questions about the comment period, please contact Dave Novak at (312) 886-9840 or through U.S. EPA's toll-free number: 1-800-621-8431.

ALTERNATIVE 4 SOURCES LIKE
THE BEST SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM.

☐ I have no comment, but
please add me to your
mailing list for the Himco
Dump Superfund site.

Name THOMAS D. BARBER SR

Affiliation (if any) _____

Address 2705 CALIFORNIA RD.

City ELKHART

State IN. Zip 46514

Use This Space To Write Your Comments

Your input on the proposed plan for the Himco Dump Superfund site is important to U.S. EPA. Comments provided by the public are valuable in helping U.S. EPA select a cleanup plan for the site.

You may use the space below to write your comments, then fold, stamp, and mail this page. Comments must be postmarked by October 29, 1992. If you have questions about the comment period, please contact Dave Novak at (312) 886-9840 or through U.S. EPA's toll-free number: 1-800-621-8431.

I do believe that any of these alternatives are better than doing nothing. I do not see that any capping procedure is going to stop groundwater from running through and contaminating our drinking water, from underground! Our drinking water has been foul for some time. We now buy drinking water. We were not affected for several years, but now it is bad water. From what I have been told, people south and west of this site has been furnished with better water supply. Is this still possible in our situation being that we are east of this site, and not affected for a while.

☐

I have no comment, but please add me to your mailing list for the Himco Dump Superfund site.

Name HARRY A. DUNKER

Affiliation (if any) AREA RESIDENT

Address 27933 COUNTY RD. #10 W.

City ELKHART

State INDIANA Zip 46514

Oct. 6. 1992

GERALD JOHNSON
CONSULTANT
2601 OAKLAND AVE. C210
ELKHART, IND. 46517
(219) 293-8773

Mr. Dave Novak
United States EPA
Office of Public Affairs
Region 5
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, Ill. 60604

Re:- Himco Dump Superfund Site
Meeting at City Council Chambers
Elkhart Municipal Bldg.
Elkhart, Indiana

Dear Sir:-

I am a Consultant doing work for THE POWER GROUP which is a group of concerned citizens living in the Elkhart County Area who are very concerned with the degradation of the natural ground water and the pollution of the air in this area.

The Himco Dump Site has been a source of great worry and concern to the Power Group over the past several years as they have watched the quality of the ground water in and around the area of this dump, as well as other dumps, pollute the natural resources.

I have gone over the EPA Recommended Cleanup Plan for the Himco Dump at Elkhart, Indiana and would like to have the EPA accept the following comments.

We feel that the Preferred Alternative Plan which the EPA titles Alternative 4: (U.S. EPA's Preferred Alternative fails to solve the Leachate and ground water pollution in this area because the leachate is not to be treated and if the plan to seal off the area as EPA proposes there is no way for the leachate to be diluted and thus not be a problem.

We suggest that no sealing be done to the surface of the Himco Dump Site and instead the leachate should be pumped out of the area and be treated so that all pollutants are removed and that the treated clean leachate be returned to the site by spraying the treated clean leachate over the surface of the Himco Dump Site so this clean material can trickel down to its original area and in the process can pick up the pollutants in the site and can then be repumped out to be treated ad infinitum. This will gradually clean up the Himco Dump Site and will not be a menace to the ground water in the area and the entire site can be cleaned up.

This system for cleaning up polluted ground water and polluted leachate in other areas of the U.S. has been done many times by the EPA. If the polluted leachate is not removed on a constant basis it will gradually invade the ground water and pollute it

Would you be able to send me the following information-

1. Analysis of the leachate in this Dump Site
2. How much ground water is now polluted
3. How much leachate goes into the system each year,
4. Depth of the leachate
5. Depth of the ground water
6. How much leachate could be pumped out per year and be treated as I have suggested
7. How much pollutant in the soil could be removed per year as I have suggested

Your Recommended Preferred Alternative also mentions the drilling of wells to produce gas from the site and market this gas. Please send me the following information concerning this project:

1. Number of wells to be drilled and produced
2. The depths of the wells
3. The size of the pipe to be set
4. The size of the tubing in the wells
5. The pressure of the gas in the wells
6. The composition of the gas
7. Cost of treating the gas
8. The price you can sell the gas for
9. The volume of gas which can be produced and sold from the wells
10. The cost of operating and managing the gas wells.

Who are the RESPONSIBLE PARTIES for this Problem area?

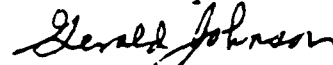
Who is responsible for paying for cleaning up this Site?

Who will pay the costs of this clean up?

Thank you for considering this plan.

If I can be of any help to you please let me know.

Sincerely



Gerald Johnson
Consultant

ADDENDUM

The Quarry Pond, Small Pond and Large Pond could be Cleaned up and the water treated to clean up all pollution frm them and then the ponds could be used to store the leachate after the leachate had been treated and before the leachate was used to spray over the Dump Site so it could trickel through the contaminated soil to dissolve contaminants out of the soils on the Dump Site.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'EJF', located to the right of the main text block.



October 16, 1992

Mr. Dave Novak (PS-19J)
Community Relations Coordinator
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. EPA, Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Re: Himco Pump Superfund Site
Elkhart County, Indiana

Dear Sir:

As the spokesperson for CLEAN, Inc., we are extremely alarmed at the acceptance of Alternate #4 of the FS on the above Superfund site in Elkhart County, Indiana.

THIS IS ONLY A "BANDAID SOLUTION."

In a previous public hearing people were told that contamination from this site was moving toward the Bower Street wellfield which helps supply Elkhart City with their drinking water. When asked about this at the meeting on Oct. 6, we were told this was not being investigated as the well testing in the area surrounding this Superfund site had not disclosed any unacceptable levels of contamination. We are asking for clarification of these statements.

Also we question how leachate and seepage from this old dump can be eliminated by the top "dressing" you propose when the water table in the area is very high and runs through the bottom of the dump and would naturally carry whatever lies below the top dressing to the surrounding areas.

We also feel that since Miles now owns the property, any type of deed restrictions, covenants, etc. for future building on the site is worthless. Deed restrictions can be eliminated any time in the future if the present owners, heirs, or powers of attorney so elect to do. What protection does this give to the people 30 years from now who unknowingly decided to build a home or business on this site?

A prepared statement was read by a Miles' official at this meeting which indicated that Miles does not accept responsibility for this contamination. What protection do we taxpayers have? We are now faced with the cost of cleaning up this mess.

It is time that laws which protect we taxpayers from these costs are enforced and the PRPs involved are required to pay for the damage they have done.

We do not feel this is the right approach even though EPA says it is the most economical for the money. Thirty years from now our children are going to say, "Why did they do this?."

Yours truly, *Lorna Rickard*
Lorna K. Rickard, Secretary

October 24, 1992

POWER
(People Organized for Water-purity
and Environmental Responsibility)
c/o Barb Shembab
59805 Hillcrest Ave.
Elkhart, IN. 46517

Dave Novak
Community relations Coordinator
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. EPA Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Novak,

As a group of concerned citizens in Elkhart County we have several concerns about the proposed plan for the HIMCO dump site. First what will you plan to do with the run off from the cap proposed in alternative 4?

Second, will there be continuing monitoring off site wells and continued monitoring to guarantee no plumes are developing off site. The proposed cap will stop horizontal infiltration, but not viertical. This would appear to be the bigger threat as the aquifer as stated at the meeting is running directly thru the waste and therefore is picking up leachate.

An earlier plume was found in the Bower St. area and we feel this should be monitored as well as other areas in the vicinity. The St. Joseph River is 2 miles south and certainly falls into the potentially affected area from this contamination.

Third, we still have real problems with not attempting to collect leachate where possible since this is the main threat to the aquifer. Why do you feel that the leachate will not move off site in the near future? What's to stop this. The cap will help with leachate production but this will only make the leachate more concentrated as it is picked up from the vertical infiltration. We are relying heavily on promise made at the public hearing that if off site contamination is found later another remedial study etc. will be done.

Feel some type of leachate collection should at least be tried particularly if leachate weeps are still present in the waste area. Earthmovers Inc. presently is retrieving leachate from their site on CR 26. Can something similar to this procedure be attempted? Are you assuming that the concentration moving off-site will remain below treatable standards and on what do you base this?

Oct. 26, 1992
GERALD JOHNSON
CONSULTANT
2601 Oakland Ave. C210
Elkhart, Ind. 46517

Mr. Dave Novak
United States EPA
Office of Public Affairs
Region 5
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, Ill 60604

Re:- Himco Dump Superfund Site
Meeting at City Council Chambers
Elkhart Municipal Bldg.
Elkhart, Indiana

Dear Sir:-

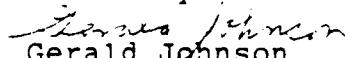
After our telephone conversation the other day I have decided to write you this additional comment to my Comment of Oct. 6, 1992 which I sent to you.

The Preferred Alternative plan which the EPA wants to use for covering and sealing off the the entire land fill and the contaminated soils in the construction area would cause any rain and snow melt to follow the SAND DRAINAGE LAYER TO THE OUTER LIMITS OF THE COVERED AREA AND BE DUMPED ONTO THE EXPOSED SOIL OF THE UNCOVERED AREAS.

This uncovered area would act as an aquifer to carry the water not only away from the covered area but also into the landfill. This portion of the water that would enter the landfill would then percolate through the landfill into leachate presently under the landfill.

Without sealing the top of the landfill with a liner the leachate would continue to increase and would enter the groundwater. This would negate the EPA program..

Sincerely


Gerald Johnson
Consultant
(219) 293-8773

VERLAND D. BLOXSON
28361 ALPINE LANE
ELKHART IN 46514

October 15, 1992

Mr. Dave Novak (PS-19J)
Community Relations Coordinator
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. EPA, Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604

HIMCO Dump Superfund Site Public Comment

Dear Mr. Novak:

I attended the recent meeting in Elkhart regarding the subject. Since that time I have had an opportunity to discuss the meeting with those who attended and others who could not attend but who have knowledge of the situation.

I have a personal interest in a proper solution to the Himco dump site situation. I live less than one mile from the site where I have my own shallow well providing water for all uses in my home. I recently had occasion to open my well storage / pressure tank and found that the interior was coated with a slimy brownish green material. All of this I thoroughly cleaned out before I reactivated my water system. I am fearful that the contaminants that caused the conditions I observed are continuously present in my daily water supply. I inquired at a local testing company about the cost of testing my water. The cost to test for the 87 chemicals on your list and found at the dump site would cost me approximately \$700.00. Since I am retired on a fixed income, I cannot afford to absorb such cost.

I am greatly concerned that the so called EPA recommendations for cleanup is not a cleanup in any sense of the word. How can you call an obvious cover up of the pollution, a cleanup ??? EPA admits that the contaminants are already below the water table. You argue that there are no dangerous toxic levels in the off site water tables, by today's standards. It is highly probable that the standards could change at any time. I remember when cigarettes were considered safe. Furthermore you argue that the ground water flow is to the southeast. This may be true today, but could change at any time in the future. A large consumer of ground water locating to the south west of the site could alter the flow patterns dramatically, exposing a whole new group of residents to the already contaminated water below the site. In fact increased usage of the water in any southerly direction could cause the contaminated water to flow with increased volume out of the site area and into areas where contamination of city water or individual wells will occur.

I am convinced that my water and that of my immediate neighbors in this subdivision is already contaminated.

It is general public knowledge that Himco and major clients made use of the subject site to dispose of materials that were prohibited by the Elkhart County Landfill. Furthermore a major offender was allowed to conduct tests at the site for EPA. These tests were done after tank trucks of fresh water were pumped down into the test wells to insure that contaminants would not be detected. Those contaminants are still there -- on site -- waiting for the right conditions to occur to cause illness and death to us or future generations. The actions of Himco and their clients during the dumping period can only be considered a conspiracy to dupe the public and the EPA and to cover up illegal activities creating an extreme hazard to individuals and the community.

The covering up of the dump site as proposed by EPA is a farce and cannot possibly guarantee the future health of the community. It seems to me that the EPA is a party to a sell out to the big business interests who want to push the problem under the carpet to avoid the cost of the only real solution to the problem, i.e.: excavate all of the contaminants from the site and place them in a suitable landfill, approved for such materials. The time to do it right is now !! Once the present cover up is completed, there will not be a second chance to go back to the responsible parties even though the toxic conditions in the ground water off site may become critical. The second time around will become an enormous taxpayer burden.

So that I may inform all negatively impacted and interested parties about this matter, this is my request for a list of all names and addresses of all attendees at the October 6, 1992 and the July 12, 1990 meetings as permitted under the Freedom Of Information Act.

I trust that no final decision, regarding this matter, will be made until a more thorough investigation is made of the real consequences of this proposed solution. In the long term, there is no proper solution other than the one I have stated above.

I would appreciate a written response to this letter along with the names and addresses I have requested.

Sincerely,

Verland D. Bloxson

VERLAND D. BLOXSON